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Alinas' nomination to Zoning board approved. PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

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Senate president nixes delegate run

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) says she has begun her Senate reelection campaign for coming general elections.

» Launches Senate re-election campaign

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, DeLeon Guerrero said she has officially shut down plans of running for U.S delegate, saying she's decided to seek reelection as senator this upcoming general elections which is set for Nov. 5.

The current Senate president added that she has been campaigning for the

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DeLeon Guerrero

Benson: Saipan in need of reinvention

Benson

» Businessman is running for Precinct 3 seat in Nov. 5 general elections

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan has become an outdated destination in need of reinvention, according to longtime Saipan resident Del Benson.

Benson said Saipan's economy has been

See BENSON on Page 4

France to lift state of emergency in efforts to allow political dialogue in riot-hit New Caledonia

By SYLVIE CORBET and BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron decided on Monday to lift the state of emergency in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia in a move meant to allow political dialogue following the unrest that left seven people dead and a trail of destruction, his office said.

The president's office said

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FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY TO SURVIVE

Chamber: 12 daily flights needed

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Ron Smith said in order for the CNMI tourism industry to survive it needs a minimum of 12 daily flights—ideally seven from Korea, four from China, and one from Japan.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly membership meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Smith was invited to help the service organization get a better grasp on the current economic situation by sharing a bit of what was

See CHAMBER on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Ron Smith speaks to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

After a presentation by Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Ron Smith, members of the Rotary Club of Saipan ask questions during their meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

INSIDE

LOCAL

In about 90 days Yap will play host to two of the Pacific's premier dive photography events, MantaFest and BlackwaterFest.

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BUSINESS

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the Office of Guam APEX Accelerator, formerly known as the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center Office, are pleased to announce the successful completion of its no-cost training titled Federal Contracting 101.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

Italy on Tuesday celebrated the return of around 600 antiquities from the U.S., including ancient bronze statues, gold coins, mosaics and manuscripts valued at 60 million euros ($65 million), that were looted years ago.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
It's Sea Turtle Nesting Season
Green Sea Turtle species nest all year round in the CNMI and peak nesting season occurs between March to July. During this period, sea turtles, their eggs, and hatchling are most vulnerable.
Over 44,000
sea turtles have been exploited annually in the last 10 years.
1 in 1000
hatchling are estimated to reach adulthood.
Endangered Green Sea turtles and Hawksbill turtles
are the only two sea turtles present in the CNMI. Although they are protected, harvesting is still the primary threat to our sea turtles.
To report violations or strandings, call the Sea Turtle Hotline at (670) 287-8537 or reach out to us here:
facebook.com/CNMISTP
cnmi_seaturtles

Local

Tinian Middle School promotes 34 to 9th grade

PSS

The Top 10 promoted 8th grade students of Tinian Middle School were presented last Tuesday by principal Liz Perzinski, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, acting BOE chair Maisie B. Tenorio, and BOE member Antonio L. Borja to the Tinian community. The Top 10 are (1) Chae Yun Seo, (2) Tina Chang Chi, (3) Christofe Donald Dora Patio, (4) Nazario Aguon Borja Jr., (5) Kymani Flores Nabors, (6) Ken Joshua Cabrera Litulumar, (7) Aleckah Candice Anastacio and Ava Roxy Vihyel Ayuyu John (9), Johndel Esmidella Almonte, and (10) Arturo Lopez Rivera III.

Tinian Middle School held its promotion ceremony for 34 students who are now going into the ninth grade last Tuesday morning.

The promotion ceremony, held at the Tinian Middle School cafeteria, officially began the Public School System's celebration for both of its graduating high school seniors and promoted 8th grade middle school students throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Chae Yun Seo is the class valedictorian for Tinian Middle School and recipient of the Board of Education Academic Excellence Award. The award was presented by BOE acting chair Maisie B. Tenorio, secretary/treasurer Gregory P. Borja, and Tinian BOE member Antonio L. Borja.

Tina Chang Chi is class salutatorian for the promoted class and recipient of the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award, which was presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

Joining Seo and Chi in the Top 10 promoted Tinian Middle School 8th grade students are: (3) Christofe Donald Dora Patio; (4) Nazario Aguon Borja, Jr; (5)Kymani Flores Nabors; (6) Ken Joshua Cabrera Litulumar; (7) Aleckah Candice Anastacio and Ava Roxy Vihyel Ayuyu John; (9) Johndel Esmidella Almonte, and (10) Arturo Lopez Rivera III.

The promoted middle school students chose the theme, "A Million Dreams for A World' We're Gonna Make."

'Greater good'

Class valedictorian Seo thanked everyone who supported her middle school journey, which was punctuated by her finishing top of her class.

In her valedictorian address, she gave emphasis on the importance of middle school: "[It] was a chapter in our lives where we prepare for the greater good, which we call an advancement in our life. And now I would like to say I am glad to finish this chapter and move on to the next."

"We have all had our ups and downs throughout these years together, but it has been a memorable journey for all of us, even if some of our peers have left us midway. Without the support of everyone around me, I wouldn't be standing here today," she said.

She added, "Thank you to my parents for supporting me through everything and even on my bad days. I wouldn't have come this far without them, and I wanted to say thank you to them. They were my source of motivation when I needed it the most."

She paid tribute to her school and teacher for "giving me enough knowledge to stand here."

Seo said her peers who followed her on her middle school journey. "They had given me the desire and motivation to do my best and reach where I am."

'New chapter'

Salutatorian Chi, in her speech, said her moving on to 9th grade is a special day both for her family and peers. It is a day that represents the beginning of a new chapter for her.

"I am honored to be standing here in front of you as a salutatorian. This day is very special to not just me as a salutatorian, but all my peers and their family," Chi said.

"This journey has been hard, and today represents the end of this chapter of my life and the beginning of a new chapter. I just wanted to thank my friends and most importantly my parents for supporting me through everything and always providing for me, being my backbone, and being the root of my dreams. I would not be standing here without them, as the point of a dream is lost when the roots are gone," the salutatorian said in her address.

She honored her Tinian Middle School teachers and staff for understanding and supporting her academic success.

"A special thank you to the teachers and staff for understanding me and…for assisting me in my academics, and also to everyone who believed in me in any way during this journey…even if they are not here right now," she added. "Congratulations to the (future) class of 2028."

'Advantage'

Principal Liz Perzinski is proud of her promoted students.

"You actually have more advantage than the 8th graders on Saipan who will move to an unfamiliar (and new learning) environment. Here, you share the campus with the high school, you did school events together… You'll be fine," the school administrator

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TINIAN

From page 2

assures her promoted students.

Perzinski reminded the promoted students about their chosen promotion theme:" Your imagination is a powerful tool to change your attitude and state of mind. Every extraordinary achievement, every innovative idea was first imagined by someone or living inside somebody's mind as a dream."

The school administrator also acknowledged class advisers Tiana San Nicolas and Velma Reyes for their dedication and hard work.

'You are not alone'

Acting BOE chair Maisie B. Tenorio, in her remarks, praised the promoted students for their perseverance.

"On behalf of our chairperson, retired, SGM Herman Atalig, and the rest of my colleagues at the 18th CNMI State Board of Education, I am honored to be here in celebration of your accomplishments. These last few years have not been easy, yet you showed up for your family, your classmates but, most importantly—for yourself," Tenorio said in her remarks.

She added, "If you take any skill with you, take the one that helps you with one foot in front of the other. The next four years will also have its sets of challenges, but you are not alone. You have an entire community of loved ones and educators who will walk alongside you—one step at a time. With their support and your courage, you will continue to reach amazing destinations."

'Life's full of endorphins'

In his remarks, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho offered a unique analogy of student life: how the natural chemicals produced by the human body release all the four "happy chemicals" (hormones) to respond to signals about what to feel and how to function.

Camacho said: "dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and endorphins… are naturally produced chemicals that respond to happy moments…such as special and memorable events like promotion ceremonies."

"Sometimes, they are called feel-good (hormones) body chemicals that react to lifestyle changes and moments… like what we have today: we have a lot of emotions here because we are celebrating. Your parents, this beautiful community, and your educators and leaders, are celebrating with you," Camacho said.

In closing, the education chief assured the promoted students and their parents that PSS along with the BOE would continue to support their educational journey.

"We know our leadership here from CNMI government down to BOE, have your back. What I mean when 'we have your back' is that, from your teachers to your school principal, PSS key management and our BOE leaders will be there to help you."

He added, "As the acting chairperson said, the challenges that you're going to face in high school are going to be there in front of you. But keep dreaming because I know you will be able to realize your dreams because we believe in you… that you can make it. Life is going to be good because we will be there to support all of you in your educational journey. So what you need to do now is continue learning, achieve through high school and make those dreams a realization." ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

From May 24th, 2024, **JnD Corporation** is officially closed.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #07-2024(b)

Opening date: May 20, 2024 **Closing date: June 07, 2024**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II (1) ARFF Trainee	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr) PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I (2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 07, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

Bookkeeper/Office Assistant (Full-time)

Location: ANAKS, Puerto Rico, Saipan

Responsibilities

- Organize and maintain accurate, up-to-date financial records for non-profit homeowner's association; manage invoicing, collections, accounts payable/receivable, and payroll in efficient and timely manner
- Reconcile bank statements, prepare and analyze accounting records and financial statements for accuracy, completeness and conformity to U.S. GAAP standards
- Compute and prepare taxes owed and ensure compliance with federal and state tax regulations, business license, annual corporate reports, etc.
- Respond to telephone and in-person inquiries, and email correspondence as directed
- Foster effective communication and cooperation among staff, owners, tenants, vendors, suppliers and government entities
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- Associate degree in bookkeeping, accounting, business, finance, or related field
- Minimum four (4) years professional bookkeeping/accounting experience
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and QuickBooks
- Strong communication, organizational, and problem-solving skills
- U.S. citizen/Permanent resident
- Multilingual a plus (Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog)

Compensation

- $12.00 per hour
- Paid medical insurance
- Paid sick leave, annual vacation leave, holiday pay

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, recent police clearance, and professional references via email to: office1@anaks.net by June 22, 2024. Please include "Bookkeeper/Office Assistant Application" in the subject line.

SNILD approves Alinas' nomination to Zoning board

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Judiciary & Government Operations Committee voted to approve the nomination of Eleanor Alinas to the CNMI Zoning board.

With four members present and two absent, the SNILD JGO committee voted in favor of Alinas' nomination to the CNMI Zoning board. With the approval, Alinas' nomination now moves to the full Senate floor for a vote and possibly confirmation.

Alinas stated that being nominated to serve on the Zoning board is an honor as it gives her the chance to serve the Commonwealth.

"I am truly humbled by this nomination coming from the Office of the Governor and Office of the Lieutenant Governor. It's an honor to be here and be given this opportunity to serve the Commonwealth," she said.

Alinas explained that giving back to the Commonwealth through serving as a Zoning board member means a lot as the Commonwealth provided her so many opportunities through the years.

"I started here on Saipan with nothing, then I was able to start a business and grew it. The Commonwealth has been very kind to me and gave me all these opportunities to thrive as a small, minority business owner, the Commonwealth was able to provide this for me," she added.

Alinas shared that if she is officially given the chance to serve as a Zoning board member, she intends to help small business owners like herself to further encourage entrepreneurship on the islands.

"This nomination to the board is really important to me. Speaking on behalf of small businesses, with the economy right now, I think it is important to strengthen small business communities. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy so if we are able to support the local businesses through agencies like the Zoning board, then we can continue to encourage entrepreneurship in our economy which brings in jobs, taxes, and hopefully will play a big part in the revitalization of our economy," she said.

Present for Alinas' nomination hearing were her friends and family to include House floor leader Rep. Ed Propst (D-Saipan), Customs and Biosecurity Director Jose Mafnas, Clyde Norita, and more.

Propst, Mafnas, and Norita all presented comments before the SNILD JGO committee sharing that should Alinas be nominated to the Zoning board, she could use her years of experience as a CNMI small business owner to contribute to the board as well as the CNMI.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Rep. Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. B.J, Attao (Ind-Saipan), Eleanor Alinas, Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), and Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan) pose for a photo during a SNILD JGO committee meeting last Tuesday.

SSHS PTSA, senior parent meeting today

Saipan Southern High School's 4th quarter PTSA and senior parent meeting is set today, May 30, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the SSHS Manta Ray Cafeteria.

A special presentation will be made by the Community Guidance Center.

For more information, contact (670) 237-3710 or email us at sshsptsa670@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

FRANCE

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in a statement that the state of emergency won't be extended "for the moment" and will therefore end Monday at 8 p.m. in Paris, which is 5 a.m. Tuesday in New Caledonia.

The decision aims at "enabling meetings of the various components" of pro-independence movement FLNKS, the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, and allowing elected officials and other local leaders "in a position to call" for lifting the barricades to go there and meet with protesters, the statement said.

New Caledonia's top French official, High Commissioner Louis Le Franc said on Monday that an evening and overnight curfew will remain in place. Travel will be banned between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. local time except for civil servants, medical professionals and other essential workers on night shifts and health emergencies.

New Caledonia's ban on public gatherings, transport and carrying of weapons and sale of alcohol will also remain in place, Le Franc said.

The main international airport, La Tontouta, will remain closed to commercial traffic until Sunday, June 2, according to a statement from the archipelago's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Tontouta airport shut down the day after protests against Macron government's efforts to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia turned violent.

The Magenta regional airport, located just outside the capital Nouméa, has been operational in the past few days as the hub for military flights chartered by France, Australia and New Zealand to evacuate French people and foreign tourists stuck on the unrest-hit archipelago.

Macron repeatedly pushed for the removal of protesters' barricades with leaders on both sides of New Caledonia's bitter divide—Indigenous Kanaks, who want independence, and the pro-Paris leaders, who do not.

In the statement, Macron insisted it is "the necessary condition for the opening of concrete and serious negotiations."

The statement said 480 additional gendarmes are to arrive on the archipelago "in the next few hours," putting security reinforcements at more than 3,500.

Macron's move comes after he travelled Thursday to New Caledonia.

SENATE

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past month.

"I am seeking re-election as a senator. I've picked up my documents from the board of election and my petitions are going around. Friends and family are also helping me walk my petitions around to get signatures for me. I've been doing that for a month and a half now. The time to file paperwork isn't here yet so right now, it's just a lot of quiet moves, making sure I'm respectful of people, going about my business, and continuing to do what I'm doing for the public," she said.

In a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, DeLeon Guerrero confirmed that she is leaving the NMI Democratic Party and whether she runs for delegate or seeks re-election or for another post, it will be as an independent candidate.

This is the last year of DeLeon Guerrero's first four-year term as a senator.

DeLeon Guerrero made CNMI history as the first woman to serve as Senate president.

Aside from Deleon Guerrero, Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) abd Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) have also recently announced that they are seeking re-election this November.

In addition, last April 5, House Committee on Education chair Rep. Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro (Ind-Saipan) announced his candidacy for Senate.

For those interested in voting this upcoming general elections, the Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting next month in preparation for the Nov. 5, 2024, general election.

On Saipan, the voter registration drive will be on June 1 at the Kagman Community Center, June 8 at the Tanapag Youth Center, June 15 at the San Vicente Youth Center and Koblerville Youth Center, and on June 22 at the Carolinian Affairs Office. Registration will be held from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

On Tinian, the voter registration drive and acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy will be conducted on July 8 to 9 at the Tinian Public Library from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

On Rota, the voter registration drive and acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy will be conducted on July 8 and 9 at the Rota Man Amko Center from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

CEC said previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2020 and 2022 general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2024 general election.

For first-time voters, they must provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as valid U.S. passport or birth certificate, or mayor's identification card.

CEC encouraged anyone requiring voter registration information to call its office at 670-235-8683 (VOTE) or email at cec@votecnmi.gov.mp.

CHAMBER

discussed at the Chamber's 2nd Economic Forum last May 16.

Smith said the 12 daily flights is the barebones minimum just to keep not only the CNMI tourism industry's head above water, but the Commonwealth economy in general, which is pretty much dependent on visitor arrivals.

"These direct flights will allow us to recover a little bit and you can see some of the other statistics in regards to Chinese visitors and how important they are. For 40% down to 3% that is accounting for a large percentage of the current drop that we've seen, so regardless where it's from, we don't really have a preference, but we need a third market and it's got to be a robust one. It's got to provide us with bringing 200,000-300,000 visitors per year."

He also shared current statistics of the CNMI tourism economy during the Rotary Club meeting and also how the dwindling number of visitor arrivals is affecting the viability of hotels on the islands.

"Currently if you take a look at the statistics, you can see that arrivals are down 54% compared to 2017. This is significant and is having profound impacts on our economy. We've already lost the Hyatt [Regency Saipan] and other hotels are evaluating their continued presence in the CNMI based upon the performance of their properties this summer. So that's going to be a defining moment for the CNMI. If they don't have enough guests coming in to maintain their properties at a profitable point, they are going to consider departure."

He also shared the Chamber's plan to survive the crisis, dubbed Operation 500K to bring in 500,000 visitors a year.

"Operation 500K represents 500,000 tourists which basically is the baseline whereby the operators and owners of the properties in the CNMI can break even. Just breaking even, stopping losses that we are currently experiencing. In order to achieve market share, approximately 90% which is what we need, these are the numbers we are going to need to see."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BENSON

From page 1

volatile due to the heavy reliance on Asian tourism, especially from Japan, China, and Korea.

He said recently, the island has hit some major economic hurdles after losing many Japanese and Chinese tourists.

"This has been devastating and it's clear a new strategy is needed to reinvigorate the tourism industry and overall economy," said the 65-year-old Benson.

Benson, who is a businessman, is running as an independent Republican for a Precinct 3 seat in the House of Representatives in the Nov. 5, 2024 general election. He is making the economy the top priority of his campaign.

With some fresh thinking and pro-business policies, Benson believes Saipan's economy can be revitalized.

He believes they need to think differently, reduce regulations that stifle business growth, and find ways to adapt federal mandates to the realities faced on the island.

Benson said the government doesn't create jobs, but rather should foster an environment where businesses can thrive and drive job creation themselves.

The businessman said too often when funds are short, the knee-jerk reaction is to raise taxes and fees on businesses and residents without thought to reducing costs.

"This only chases away economic opportunities. Instead, spending needs to be reined in," he said.

Benson said businesses invest for return on investment, not sentimental ties to the island like long-term residents have.

"So, policies must cater to their needs through incentives and viable laws that are consistent and thought out," he said.

The businessman said questions should be asked and answered before considering new legislation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Falling fuel prices result in the decrease of FAC

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices which may affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

Pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is required to adjust (increase or decrease) the FAC pass-through rate when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

As a result, the current FAC rate will decrease by 2.23 cents per kWh, from $0.26469 to $0.24173 per kWh, effective June 1, 2024.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related expenses. This base rate has not increased since April 2014. ***(PR)***

Registration opens for Ship Repair XII Bootcamp

The Guam Community College Office for Continuing Education & Workforce Development announces open registration for the 12th Ship Repair Bootcamp, scheduled for June through July. The Ship Repair Bootcamp XII will start on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Participants in the Ship Repair bootcamp will receive training in Introduction to Auto Body Paint (Paint Preservation) and Intro to Diesel Technology & Preventative Maintenance I. Additional training will include Heartsaver First Aid, CPR & AED, WorkKeys, Work Ethics, and OSHA 10. This bootcamp employer sponsor, Cabras Marine Corporation, will offer successful completers a job at the end of the program. This bootcamp has 20 open spots for those who qualify. The last day to apply for the Ship Repair bootcamp is by 5pm, Monday, June 10, 2024.

Those interested will have to meet the following requirements:

- Must be 18+ years of age
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Must be underemployed or unemployed
- Must be able to work in the United States
- Must submit police and court clearances

To apply for this bootcamp please schedule an appointment with the Guam Department of Labor's American Job Center by calling (671) 475-7000 or email aic.training@dol.guam.gov. For more information call GCC's CEWD office at (671) 735-5640 extension 5411, or email workforce@guamcc.edu.

Bootcamp dates listed are subject to change.

For more information, contact John Dela Rosa, GCC assistant director of Communications & Promotions, at (671) 735-5638 (office), (671) 482-4320 (cell), or john.delarosa@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

Saipan Community School Q4 honor list

The Saipan Community School congratulates the 2023/2024 fourth quarter honor list.

Principal's List 4.00 (No grade below a A)

- Amethyst Winkfield-4th grade
- Fiona Yu-4th grade
- Jihan Delos Reyes-5th grade
- Hee Soo Han-5th grade
- Junwook Kwon-5th grade
- Iyani Muna-5th grade
- Keavene Punzalan5th grade
- Jesus Villagomez-6th grade
- Annabella Tudela-8th grade
- Richard Zhao-8th grade

A Honor Roll 3.50 to 3.99 (No grades below a B)

Jeordan Buduan-4th grade

- Christopher Chen-4th grade
- Arianna Deleon Guerrero-4th grade
- Aileen Kim-4th grade
- Leila Pangelinan-4th grade
- Lennox Sablan-4th grade
- Damien Camacho-5th grade
- Dennis Guo-5th grade
- Joshua McDonald-5th grade
- Olivia Um-5th grade
- Jina Chun-6th grade
- Hiyori Okuma-6th grade
- Vivian Chung-7th grade
- Karis Han-7th grade
- Jason Sablan-7th grade
- Tony Xiao-7th grade
- Ian Chae-8th grade
- Sen Huang-8th grade
- Christine Kim-8th grade
- Elin Kim-8th grade
- Ray Patrick McDonald-8th grade
- Daniel Nae-8th grade
- Jihun Park-8th grade
- Jose Sablan-8th grade
- Erine So-8th grade

B Honor Roll 3.00 to 3.49 (No grades below a C)

- Troy Anthony Aldan-4th grade
- Riel Choi-4th grade
- Mileah Dowai-4th grade
- Rachel Gu-4th grade
- Melvin Reyes-4th grade
- Daniel Guo-5th grade
- Seung Woo Lee-5th grade
- Bailey Parsons-5th grade
- Jun Lee-6th grade
- Ryan Macaranas-6th grade
- Claire Oh-6th grade
- Leo Samson Pangelinan-6th grade
- Micaela Tenorio-6th grade
- Jiyun Lee-7th grade
- Elijah Pangelinan-7th grade
- Farani Tonuu-7th grade
- Emma Sablan-8th grade
- Mickaella Yang-8th grade ***(PR)***

Learn more about UOG's Doctor of Education Program

The University of Guam School of Education will be hosting a series of in-person and online information sessions for the new Doctor of Education (EdD) in Instructional and Academic Leadership for prospective students.

Information Session Schedule

- In-Person: 6pm (ChST) on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at Room 131 in the UOG School of Business and Public Administration Building
- Online: 6pm (ChST) on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 via Zoom
- In-Person: 6pm (ChST) on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Room 131 in the UOG School of Business and Public Administration Building
- Online: 6pm (ChST) on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 via Zoom

Register for an info session or request for more information about the Doctor of Education program by emailing SOE-EdD@triton.uog.edu.

Call for applications

Applications for admission into the inaugural cohort of the Doctor of Education program will be accepted from June 12 to July 24, 2024. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Atkins Kroll #2024-1363

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request to amend the text of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013: Atkins Kroll is requesting for such change to allow **Automobile Sales and Services in the Beach Road zoning district.** This district includes all lots situated east of and abutting Beach Road, extending from the intersection of Beach Road and Gualo Rai Road, and southward to the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Msgr. Guerrero.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **June 6th, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 5th, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-011-24

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"PROVIDE AND INSTALL ONE (1) BRAND COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/ SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE AND INSTALL ONE BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNIT **(IFB-011-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL **(RFP-008-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-010-24

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"AIRCONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA, ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED " AIRCONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS/BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA, ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-010-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 108

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Haley's ambition Trumps principle: Getting back in line like too many Republicans

Of course Nikki Haley now says she'll vote for Donald Trump. The blink of an eye ago she called him "unstable and unhinged," an individual who's "just toxic" and "lacks moral clarity."

She follows the same beaten path of Marco Rubio, who became a big fan of the man he'd labeled a "dangerous" "con artist"; Ted Cruz, now an enthusiastic backer of a person he called a "sniveling coward"; and Lindsey Graham, now a leading apologist for the man he'd branded a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot." In the political class, there are dozens upon dozens of other such examples amid rare exceptions like Mitt Romney.

Republicans who run for office speak the obvious truth about Donald Trump until they realize he's got them beat and, if they want to win more elections in a party where Trump and Trumpism remain dominant, they have no choice but to turn obsequious and pretend that they never had a brain or a conscience. Trump proceeds to treat all these former rivals like something grosser than gum stuck to the bottom of his shoe, and that's appropriate, because the rivals-turned-sycophants disrespect themselves.

When politicians so brazenly change their tune on such matters, it's little wonder the public treats them with contempt; that contempt, ironically, is one of the things that in 2015 fueled the rise of a supposedly more authentic personality named Donald Trump.

The Republicans far more worth our attention these days are those who were up close and personal with Trump in his first term, who saw the way he operated as president, and who now warn at the top of their lungs against him becoming president again.

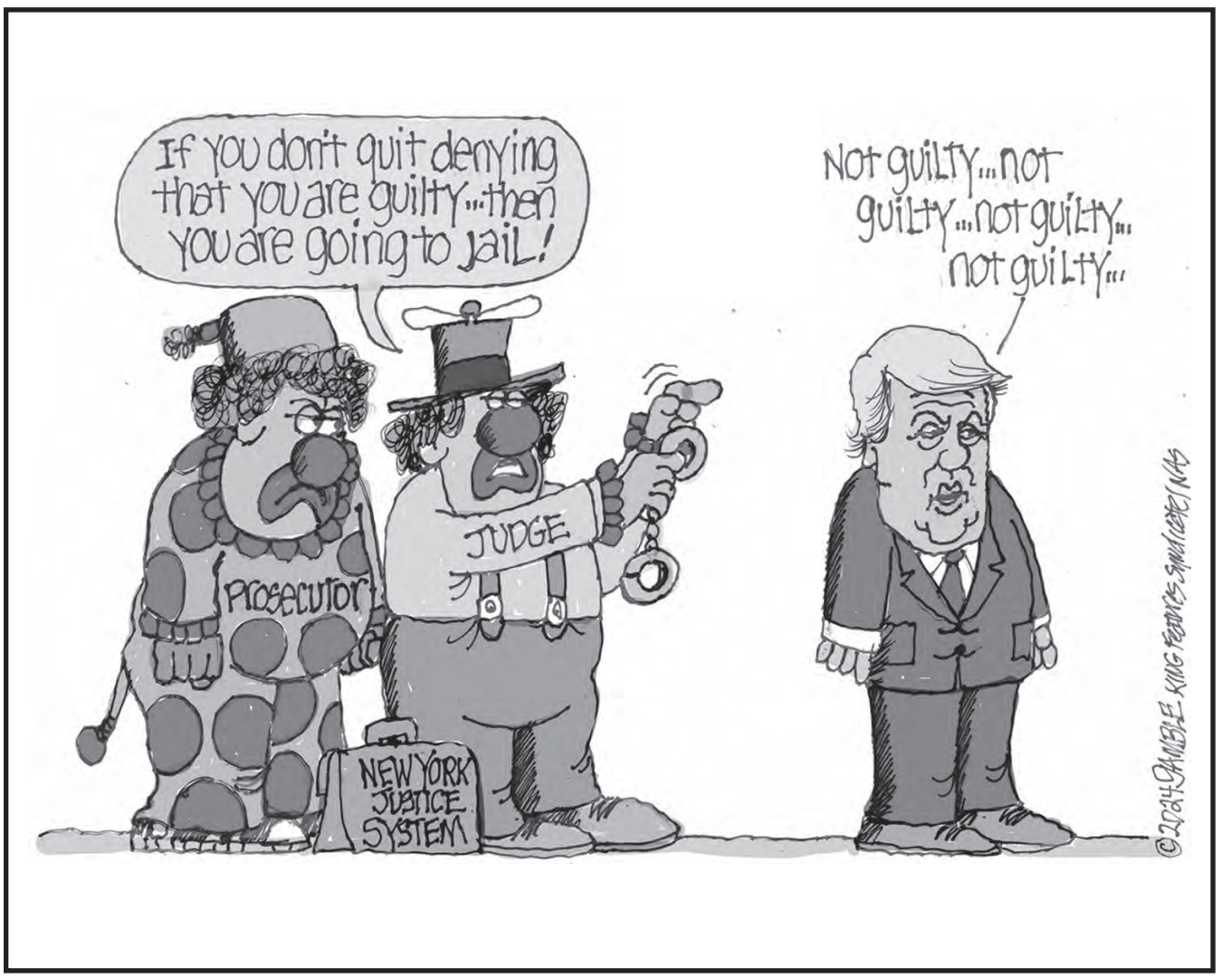
There's former Vice President Mike Pence, who Trump tried to turn into an accomplice in his plot to overturn the 2020 election.

Former Trump Chief of Staff John Kelly, who emerged from the cauldron of the White House calling Trump "a person who admires autocrats and murderous dictators" who "has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law."

There's Bill Barr, once Trump's attorney general, who calls Trump "a consummate narcissist" who "constantly engages in reckless conduct." There's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, who called Trump a "wannabe dictator."

Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who calls Trump a "threat to democracy" based on his attempt to send as many as 250,000 troops to the U.S. Mexico border—as well as his apparent interest in launching missile strikes on Mexico. Former

See HALEY on Page 7


If you don't quit denying that you are guilty...then you are going to jail!
PROSECUTOR
JUDGE
NEW YORK JUSTICE SYSTEM
Not guilty...not guilty...not guilty...
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Making Tourism Our Business: It takes a village

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"It takes a village to raise a child" is an African proverb that has gained popularity through the years, to where if you now say "it takes a village," it's understood to mean that it will take many people to accomplish the goal.

In our commonwealth village, tourism affects every single part of our lives. It pays for both private and public sector jobs. It provides an opportunity for businesses to open, make money, and stay open. Those businesses pay taxes, which generates revenue for police, hospitals and clinics, schools, parks, waste disposal, road repairs, cultural events, sports facilities, and everything in between. It provides restaurants, hotels, waterparks, and even convenient airline service for locals as well as tourists. It gives the people in our small, isolated home an ongoing connection to the wider world, with the opportunity for enriching cross-cultural exchange and a chance to share our culture with a world that could learn a lot from our treasured values, beginning with mutual respect/*respetu/awóówó*.

In attracting visitors and media attention to our Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority certainly takes the lead, leveraging our limiting marketing dollars to convince visitors to choose us over all other destinations—Hawaii, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bali, Guam, or the U.S. mainland. It's a tough job, but we are up for it. I am incredibly proud of our team at the MVA, a group of committed individuals at our offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who work diligently to ensure the success of our many programs. They are among the hardest working people you will find. Regular workdays, mid-days to late nights at Taste of The Marianas, 2am showtimes for our marathon events that finish at 10pm, inaugural flight ceremonies in the middle of the night, hot middays cutting grass at our sites on Tinian and Rota. Mind you, all without overtime under our current financial conditions. And not only does this group of government employees work hard, they work smart. All that to say, our MVA team is not perfect, but in my opinion, they are passionate about their mission and among the best.

But to have a truly vibrant tourism economy and make the Marianas a world-class destination, it takes much more than the MVA…it takes a village. The MVA continues with marketing and promotions, organizing annual signature events to attract media attention and visitors, meeting with airlines and travel agents to seek more service and support, and more. But there is *so much more to do*, and we must also respect and leverage the jurisdiction, duties, and responsibilities of all players—government, private, and community—in our Commonwealth.

A few examples. Thankfully, most people in our community make it our personal responsibility to dispose of their trash properly. Nonetheless, we have many unscrupulous individuals creating a continuing problem with littering and outright dumping of trash at our beaches, parks, and roadsides. We see it every Monday at parks and beaches frequented by residents. This problem is obviously not a tourism-related issue. This is a local issue caused by local residents that must be solved by our local government and community together. The MVA markets a pristine, nature-based destination, which is unfortunately also a literal dump in several public locations. Many contact the MVA to complain about this problem (last year we even pulled our staff and resources out of the office to clean up illegal dumping near Hyatt Regency Saipan), but the MVA is not the enforcement agency for keeping the islands clean. We need consistent citations issued for the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989, and we are pleased to know that last week Gov. Arnold I. Palacios discussed the issue at a Cabinet meeting composed of key law enforcement agencies to address this problem. If you see a trash problem or want to report littering, please contact them! It takes a village…

See TOURISM on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why we're so exhausted if we're spending more time in bed

By F.D. FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

F.D. Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the "Follow the Science" podcast.

Americans have started sleeping more than any time in the last 20 years, says a new survey of the way we use time. But wait—a new Gallup poll says we're more stressed and sleeping less. Can both headlines be right?

A closer look shows that the pandemic precipitated a seismic shift in time use for some of us, but it didn't change a longstanding national sleep problem. The people with the most grueling, sleep-killing jobs didn't reap any of the post-pandemic sleep bonus. Others are spending more time in bed, but tossing and turning.

The two surveys measured somewhat different things. The data showing we're sleeping more comes from the American Time Use Survey, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau. It asks a sample of people to catalog what they do all day.

During the pandemic, that data revealed a vast increase in number of professional and office workers doing their jobs from home. And people who work from home sleep about 30 minutes later in the mornings and get more overall sleep, said Victor Vernon, an economist at SUNY Empire State. The work-from-home trend helped America's average nightly sleep to increase by 10 minutes between 2019 and 2022. That accelerated a steady rise in sleep times that dates back to 2003.

For those who started working from home during the pandemic, some of the extra sleep time came out of time previously spent on grooming and commuting, which together take a whopping 89 minutes per day on average for people working away from home.

The new Gallup poll questioned people more directly on sleep and stress and showed a sudden change not seen in the other survey — since the pandemic, people have become less satisfied with the quality and quantity of sleep we're getting. In 2023, 57% of Americans said they'd feel better if they got more sleep, up from 43% who felt that way back in 2013.

And even more worrisome, the number getting less than five hours has increased to 20%, up from about 15% in previous years. (Sleep experts say most of us need at least seven.)

One potential cause: the National Institutes of Health reports that 50 to 70 million people suffer sleep disorders. The most common of those is insomnia, said Renske Lok, a sleep medicine specialist at Stanford University, which is associated with stress and mental health problems. The Gallup data show stress is higher than it's been in 30 years, with nearly half of respondents saying they experienced frequent stress. Mental health problems have also risen since 2020.

Perhaps part of the shift can be found in other time-use changes associated with COVID. People also started spending more time in front of screens, for example, which can interrupt sleep if used too close to bedtime. And more time spent alone could contribute to mental health challenges like stress and depression that can interrupt sleep.

Mathias Basner, a sleep expert at the University of Pennsylvania, said increased use of fitness trackers is also making people aware of sleep problems they never knew they had. That's causing some to fall into a vicious sleeplessness cycle.

Worrying about getting too little sleep can set up a feedback loop, said Stanford's Lok. "The second you can't fall asleep, you're like, 'Oh my God, I really want to fall asleep, but I can't fall asleep,'" she said. It's something many of us have experienced the night before a big presentation or competition. When it happens a lot, Basner says, specialists call it "orthosomnia."

But work, Basner said, is still the biggest imposition on our sleep. People need a certain amount of time to relax and unwind in different ways, so pushing extra hours on employees comes out of their sleep time.

Shift work often forces people to try to defy their bodies' natural sleep cycles. Our sleep cycles depend not just on how long we've been up, but also on the time of day, said Lok. For most people, night shifts, rotating shifts or unpredictable shifts are incompatible with the human circadian rhythm.

According to a new study published in PLOS One, working outside the usual 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. pattern takes a long-term toll on people's mental and physical health. The study used data on health, sleep and work patterns for 7,000 people born in the 1960s, starting when they were 22 and spanning the next 30 years. Those who spent the most time on night shifts or "volatile" shifts were the most likely to report a deterioration in their mental and physical health by the time they turned 50.

It's hard for people with rotating or unpredictable shifts to get enough sleep quantity or quality, said study's lead author, Wen-Jui Han, a professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. Those same people often had low paying jobs with few benefits—and the health toll of those factors couldn't be untangled. These are truckers, cashiers, and various blue-collar workers propping up our 24-hour economy. They haven't gotten any sleep bonus from the work at home trend—though they're the ones who need additional Z's the most.

Scientists are happy that people are taking the dangers of sleep deprivation seriously—but say we shouldn't take it so seriously that we lose any sleep over it.

TOURISM

From page 7

The protection of people and property at various locations on Saipan is something the MVA has also been forced to undertake in the past due to undeterred crime. For several years we had security personnel posted at seven locations to prevent both visitors and residents from becoming victims of car break-ins or even robberies. Ultimately, we were instructed to remove our security personnel because the MVA does not have jurisdiction over those locations; that falls under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources or the Department of Public Lands. We understand the Department of Public Safety has recently been making more periodic patrols of the areas, but permanent security is needed throughout the day. MVA cannot provide this. It takes a village…

Not so long ago, people used to call and complain about the MVA not picking up dead dogs on the road (thankfully, the Saipan Mayor's Office, DPS, and other agencies now handle that). It's been a bit of a running joke in the office about how the MVA is often expected to handle anything unsavory or unsatisfactory in the community. Trash problems? Break-ins? Abandoned buildings becoming unsightly and unsafe? Public restrooms dirty or inoperable? Sidewalk lighting inoperable? Public parking not available? Roadside landscaping unattractive? Park facilities rundown or unsafe? Airport facilities need improvements? And the list goes on. Our doors at the MVA are always open for those who have concerns about the tourism industry. Equally and for the sake of efficiency, we encourage that concerns be discussed directly with responsible parties, if not the MVA. We cannot do this alone.

It takes a village, and we know that *by working together*, this village can become the home and destination we all hope for.

HALEY

From page 6

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who called Trump the "first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people—does not even pretend to try." That's an unmistakably consistent pattern from those who saw him play commander-in-chief.

None of these people are seeking political office. All of them align with Trump on many key policy questions. All of them know that being honest about Donald Trump will make it harder for them to thrive professionally in a Republican Party where Trump has overwhelmingly positive approval ratings. Yet none can deny seeing what they saw: an immature, craven, self-serving, out-of-his depth individual who abused the power of the presidency for four years—then tried to steal a second four-year term—and is salivating at the opportunity to do it again.

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MAY IS PHILIPPINE HERITAGE MONTH

Jose Rizal and Filipino Soldiers Memorial

During PH Heritage Month and this Memorial Day weekend let us pay respect to Jose Rizal (b.1861-d.1896) considered one of the greatest heroes of the Philippines. He was a nationalist writer, ophthalmologist, and supporter of the Filipino Propaganda Movement. He was executed by the Spanish colonial government though he was not involved in the Philippine Revolution in its planning or conduct. His power and fame is in his poetry and words. He was also a polyglot conversant in 22 languages. Here are quotes of his writing:

"Ignorance is servitude, because as a man thinks, so he is; a man who does not think for himself and allows himself to be guided by the thought of another is like the beast led by a halter. The tyranny of some is possible only through the cowardice of others." *—from Letter to the Young Women of Malolos, 1889*

"I wish to show those who deny us patriotism that we know how to die for our country and convictions."

Think about the spineless GOP U.S. Congress afraid to speak out now against twice impeached, convicted of rape, facing 88 felony counts, candidate who calls military POWs losers, former POTUS Trump.

"I die without seeing dawn's light on my country…You who will see it, welcome it for me…don't forget those who fell during the nighttime."—*Noli Me Tángere.*

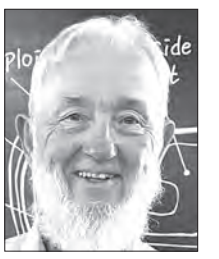
Here Rizal knows he will be executed before the Philippines gains independence.

Let us then also remember all those who died fighting for Philippine independence. Let us remember those Filipinos who fought alongside the U.S. Army in WWII. And Filipino-Americans who have served and serve in the U.S, Armed Forces today, including my *kumpaire*, James San Nicolas Salinas, maestro in Guam, and many former students on Tinian and Saipan. Biba!

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.

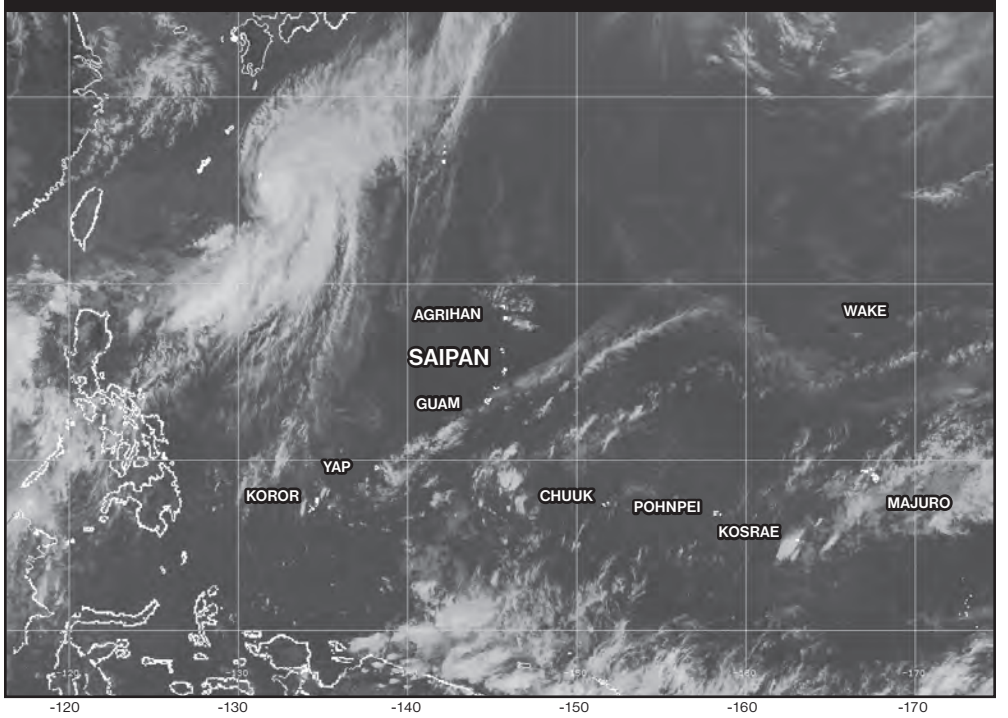


The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate tradewinds and fair weather prevail across the Marianas. Cirrus is seen across the coastal waters and to the east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	89° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:44 AM	5:48 AM
Friday	12:39 AM	12:41 PM	-
Saturday	1:20 AM	1:36 PM	-
Sunday	2:00 AM	2:33 PM	-
Monday	2:41 AM	3:30 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 55°
Beijing	Fair	89° / 69°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 59°
Manila	Light Rain with Thunder	91° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
New York	Showers	76° / 65°
Osaka	Sunny	74° / 60°
Paris	Sunny	81° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 53°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 63°
Salem	Thunderstorm	83° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	70° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	80° / 55°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:50 AM	High Tide	2.07
7:38 AM	Low Tide	1.42
11:43 AM	High Tide	1.75
7:09 PM	Low Tide	0.12

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

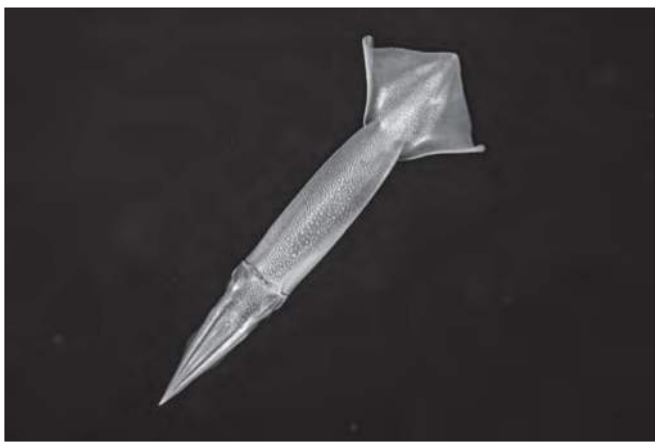
Yap hosting Pacific's premier dive photography events

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia—In about 90 days Yap will play host to two of the Pacific's premier dive photography events, MantaFest and BlackwaterFest. Both events are organized by the island's leading hotel and diving facility Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers, with MantaFest running from Aug. 24 to Sept. 8 and BlackwaterFest from Sept. 7 to 15.

Manta Fest is in its 17th edition and brings together amateur and professional underwater photographers and other scuba diving enthusiasts from around the world. They compete for prizes, attend workshops led by experts in the field, and take tours of the island to experience the unique attractions and culture of Yap. Daily dive trips will provide opportunities to view and photograph a variety of species in Yap's amazing underwater world—from manta rays to sharks, turtles to bumphead parrotfish, and mandarinfish to gobies. Special night dives will also be available to provide further glimpses into Yap's underwater hidden assets.

DAVID FLEETHAM

Male and female mandarinfish, Synchiropus splendidus, performing a mating dance off Yap Island.



DAVID FLEETHAM

This image was captured a mile off the island of Yap at night with the bottom 1,000+ feet below. Hundreds of these squid passed by very quickly. This one paused just briefly for a portrait. It appears to be a Japanese common squid also known as a Japanese flying squid, Todarodes pacificus, one of the most abundant of the commercially valuable squid in the world.

» MantaFest and BlackwaterFest starts in less than 3 months

Along with the usual stellar lineup of regular photo coaches attending, this year's MantaFest will welcome Logan Wood, a well-known video producer at Ikelite. Wood is an experienced cinematographer who blends his passion for storytelling with adventure, creating content that educates and inspires an ever-growing community of underwater photographers and videographers. His work drops him into some of the most stunning environments to film, test new equipment, and hear first-hand how people are re-defining what it means to be a modern-day creative.

Following on the heels of MantaFest will be the second edition of BlackwaterFest, which will run from Sept. 7 to 15 and focus on deep ocean night diving. Participants will explore the waters of the "Yap Trench" in the Pacific Ocean, which reaches depths of over 9,000 meters. Here they will discover exotic creatures of the deep blue sea that are rarely seen and experience them in their natural habitat. This event will be co-hosted by Mike Bartick, a world renowned underwater photographer and a bona fide pioneer of blackwater diving. Also on hand to assist with this event will be David Fleetham, another blackwater diving expert and one of the most published underwater photographers in the world.

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia, in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta rays, sharks and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing, and exploring the many World War II historical sites. Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visityap.com. ***(PR)***

NCAC expands reach into Pacific Rim with Tiyan High School's Model Academies in Guam

GUAM—The National Career Academy Coalition is proud to announce the successful implementation and recognition of its first three model academies outside the 50 states at Tiyan High School in Guam. This significant milestone marks NCAC's expansion into the Pacific Rim and sets a new standard for excellence in career-focused education in the region.

Tiyan High School's academies, which include the Transportation, Logistics, & Construction Academy, the Health & Human Services Academy, and the Business, Arts, & Information Technology Academy, have all achieved model status according to NCAC's rigorous National Standards of Practice. This recognition underscores the school's commitment to providing a relevant and rigorous educational experience that prepares students for success in their future careers.

NCAC

Tiyan High School's academies have all achieved model status according to National Career Academy Coalition's rigorous National Standards of Practice.

Empowering students through specialized pathways

The success of Tiyan High School's academies can be attributed to the dedicated leadership of principal Sophia SN Duenas and College and Career Academy coordinator Dr. Rachel Pocaigue, along with a team of committed educators and guidance counselors. Each academy offers specialized pathways that cater to diverse student interests and career aspirations:

Tiyan High School's academic achievements are a testament to the strong support and collaboration from the local community and various partners, including the Guam Community College, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the University of Guam, the Guam Police Department, and many others. These partnerships have provided invaluable resources such as guest speakers, curriculum development, student work experiences, and mentoring programs.

National Career Academy Coalition president Jay Steele praised Tiyan High School, stating, "Congratulations to the Tiyan High School staff and community partners for becoming Guam's first school to have three model college and career academies. The school's unwavering commitment to providing exceptional career-focused education is truly inspiring. This achievement underscores their hard work and dedication to preparing students for future success."

A proven model for success

Since 2015, Tiyan High School has been refining its career academy concept, drawing inspiration from NCAC's best practices and other successful models like Waipahu High School in Hawaii. Through continuous improvement and a commitment to excellence, Tiyan High School has overcome challenges related to funding, stakeholder engagement, and data collection to become a model institution for career academies.

Quotes from key stakeholders

Keira Perez, 12th grade visual arts student, said "Once students utilize the programs in the academies, the change and growth are immediate. I was truly able to use the career academy structure to the fullest during my senior year at Tiyan High School."

Xaiver Baza, 12th grade fitness student, said "Career academies have given me more insight into the professional development of my interests and provided opportunities to explore different career paths without changing my academic life."

Elijah Mesubed, 12th grade AF JROTC student, said "Students feel a lot more prepared for life after high school and get more exposure to industries and careers that are actively in demand."

NCAC

Tiyan High School's Health & Human Services Academy students in action.

"Career academies offer students a unique pathway to success, integrating rigorous academics with practical, hands-on training in specific industries. This approach fosters deeper engagement in learning and boosts graduation rates as students see the direct relevance of their education to their future careers," said principal Duenas.

The importance of college and career-connected education in high schools

As education evolves to meet the demands of the 21st-century economy, college and career connected education is becoming increasingly essential in preparing students for college, career, and life. By integrating rigorous academics with practical, hands-on training, career academies provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a rapidly changing job market. NCAC is at the forefront of this educational movement, serving as the global thought leader and support organization for new and existing college and career connected education programs in high schools.

NCAC's vision for the future

NCAC's expansion into the Pacific Rim and the success of Tiyan High School's academies represent a significant step toward realizing NCAC's vision of becoming the premier international organization partnering with schools and communities to facilitate sustainable and transformational change through the academy model. As NCAC continues to grow its reach, Tiyan High School's Model Academies will serve as a showcase for other schools seeking to improve their educational systems and better prepare students for the future.

NCAC

Since 2015, Tiyan High School has been refining its career academy concept, drawing inspiration from NCAC's best practices and other successful models like Waipahu High School in Hawaii.

For more information about NCAC and its work in transforming education through career academies, visit www.ncacinc.com.

NCAC is dedicated to supporting the development and implementation of career academies across the United States and internationally. Through its collaborative process and the National Standards of Practice, NCAC helps communities transform their education systems to better prepare students for success in college, careers, and life. ***(PR)***

Business

CNMI SBDC, Guam APEX Accelerator successfully complete Federal Contracting 101 training

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the Office of Guam APEX Accelerator, formerly known as the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center Office, are pleased to announce the successful completion of its no-cost training titled Federal Contracting 101.

This collaborative effort completes the second training on the Municipality of Saipan for the month of May, and has equipped an additional 20 local entrepreneurs with vital skills needed to navigate the federal contracting landscape.

SBDC

Training participants pose for a group photo with Guam APEX Accelerator program manager Boris Hertslet and CNMI SBDC Network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero.

Facilitated by Boris Hertslet, program manager of the Office of the Guam APEX Accelerator, the training session took place on May 22, 2024 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm at the Northern Marianas College campus, CNMI SBDC's host institution. The training focused on the intricacies of the registration process of government procurement website SAM.gov and also provided an outline for developing an effective capabilities statement. These skills are crucial for local businesses aiming to secure service contracts with the federal government.

Hertslet highlighted that a significant number of small businesses in the Commonwealth qualify for various certifications such as the 8(a) Disadvantaged, HUBZone, women-owned, and veteran-owned program certifications under the U.S. Small Business Administration. When certified, businesses have the ability to gain preferential points during the procurement selection process, increasing their chances of being awarded a contract under the federal government procurement system. However, despite Commonwealth-based businesses' eligibility under these programs, many are not availing and taking advantage of such programs.

The Federal Contracting 101 training is particularly significant in the context of the ongoing military buildup within the Marianas. This initiative is designed to position local businesses to compete effectively for federal contracts, thereby contributing to the economic development of the CNMI. By enhancing the capabilities of our local entrepreneurs, the SBDC is not only fostering business growth, but also ensuring that businesses can fully participate, and successfully receive contracted awards as a direct benefit from availing of such opportunities presented by the federal government specifically, through Department of Defense open invitations to bid.

Hertslet, with his extensive experience and expertise, provided invaluable insights and practical advice to the training participants. His guidance has empowered these entrepreneurs to confidently approach federal contracting opportunities, vital for business expansion and success.

"We are pleased with the turnout and the positive feedback received from the participants," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, Network director of the CNMI SBDC. "This training is a testament of our commitment to support and develop our local businesses, ensuring they are well-prepared to capitalize on the economic opportunities arising from the ongoing military buildup within our region."

In April 2024, the Tinian SBDC completed its two-part training series on Federal Contracting 101 on the Municipality of Tinian as presented by business owner Phillip Mendiola Long. In May 2024, the Rota SBDC completed its inaugural Federal Contracting 101 training opportunity where the session was also presented by Hertslet.

The CNMI SBDC Network and the Office of the Guam APEX Accelerator remain dedicated to providing ongoing support and resources to our islands' local businesses. This training is one of many initiatives aimed at fostering a robust and competitive business environment in the CNMI. If you are an interested business owner interested in attending these past training sessions, but were unable to due to scheduling conflicts, please call the lead center to express your interest in attending a future session. The SBDC looks forward to hosting more federal contracting training opportunities before the end of the year, and welcome those interested in learning more to sign up to be an SBDC client through its website at www.cnmisbdc.com.

For more information about other upcoming no-cost training sessions and resources, please contact the CNMI SBDC Network at (670) 237-6888 or visit our website at www.cnmisbdc.com. For direct assistance from the Office of the Guam Apex Accelerator, please visit: https://guamapex.com/.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC administrative office manager adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu. Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. ***(PR)***

WANTED: CORRESPONDENTS

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Layoffs can be part of running a small business

NEW YORK (AP)—With stubborn inflation and higher costs, layoffs at small businesses are sometimes a necessity.

U.S.-based employers announced 64,789 cuts in April, down 28% from 90,309 cuts announced in March, according to a report by global outplacement and business and executive coaching firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

» Some tips for owners on handling them

But Andrew Challenger, senior vice president at the firm, said he expects more cuts going forward.

"The labor market remains tight. But as labor costs continue to rise, companies will be slower to hire, and we expect further cuts will be needed," he said. "This low April figure may be the calm before the storm."

Here's how to handle letting people go in a professional manner:

First, make sure you're complying with regulations related to layoffs. The federal WARN act, or the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, requires a 60-day notice about a planned closing or mass layoffs. But that's only for employers with 100 or more employees.

Some states have their own WARN act with different rules. For example, New York State's WARN Act applies to private businesses with 50 or more full-time employees in New York State.

Next, craft a layoff plan. Choose a date for the layoffs and a date for notification. Send a notification to employees privately, and avoid doing more than one round of layoffs if possible.

Make sure you're clear on the reason for the layoffs and update staffers on severance, unemployment benefits and COBRA health insurance. You also could offer to write a letter of recommendation for the employee.

Life & Style

US vows more returns of looted antiquities

ROME (AP)—Italy on Tuesday celebrated the return of around 600 antiquities from the U.S., including ancient bronze statues, gold coins, mosaics and manuscripts valued at 60 million euros ($65 million), that were looted years ago, sold to U.S. museums, galleries and collectors and recovered as a result of criminal investigations.

U.S. Ambassador Jack Markell, Matthew Bogdanos, the head of the antiquities trafficking unit of the New York district attorney's office, and members of the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations department were on hand for the presentation alongside the leadership of Italy's Culture Ministry and Carabinieri art squad.

It was the latest presentation of the fruits of Italy's decades-old effort to recover antiquities that were looted or stolen from its territory by "tombaroli" tomb raiders, sold to antiquities dealers who often forged or fudged provenance records to resell the loot to high-end buyers, auction houses and museums.

Markell said that Washington was committed to returning the stolen loot "to where it belongs" as a sign of respect for Italy and its cultural and artistic heritage.

"We know that safeguarding this history requires care and vigilance, and this is why we do what we do," he said, adding that the U.S. was keeping a close eye on the latest target for art traffickers: Ukraine.

Not included in the latest haul from the U.S. was the "Victorious Youth" ancient Greek bronze statue, the object of a decades-long court battle between Italy and the Malibu, California-based Getty Museum. The prized statue recently made headlines anew when the European Court of Human Rights strongly backed Italy's right to seize it, reaffirming that it had been illegally exported from Italy.

Bogdanos and Homeland Security officials declined to comment on whether or when the "Victorious Youth" might be returned, saying it's part of an ongoing investigation.

Among the most valuable artifacts on display Tuesday was a fourth-century Naxos silver coin depicting god of wine Dionysius that was looted from an illicit excavation site in Sicily before 2013 and smuggled to the United Kingdom. Bogdanos said the coin, which was being offered for sale for $500,000, was found in New York last year as part of an investigation into a noted British coin dealer.

AP

Some 600 stolen works of art that where gave back by the United States of America to the Italian Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage are displayed during their presentation to journalists in Rome, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

He said that other items were returned from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and some of the well-known New York philanthropists who donated artifacts to its collections that turned out to have been stolen.

The returned artifacts, ranging from the ninth century B.C. to the second century, also included a life-sized bronze figure, as well as bronze heads and multiple Etruscan vases. Other items, including oil paintings from the 16th and 19th centuries, had been stolen from Italian museums, religious institutions and private homes in well-documented thefts, the carabinieri said.

Bogdanos, who forged an alliance with the Italian carabinieri art squad as they tried to recover Iraq's stolen antiquities after the U.S. invasion, said that Washington doesn't distinguish between items taken during illicit excavations or those stolen in thefts: it all amounts to looting.

"Looting is local," Bogdanos said. Locals "know when the security guards come on, they know when they come off. They know when the security guards are guarding particular sites and not others. They know when there are scientific, proper, approved archeological excavations, and then they know when those archaeological excavations close for example, for the winter or for lack of funding."

Given that, he said, there will always be looting.

"Our job is to minimize it, increase the risk to those who would engage in this traffic, convict them and where appropriate, sentence them," Bogdanos said.

Rapper Sean Kingston agrees to return to Florida

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Rapper and singer Sean Kingston on Tuesday waived his right to fight extradition in a California court and agreed to be turned over to authorities in Florida, where he and his mother are charged with committing more than a million dollars worth of fraud.

Kingston, 34, did not make a public court appearance but signed papers agreeing to skip extradition hearings, representatives from San Bernardino courts and sheriff told The Associated Press.

He remained in a Southern California jail Tuesday afternoon, but sheriff's officials will coordinate with the Broward County Sheriff's Office to return him to Florida, sheriff's spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez said in an email.

Kingston was arrested Thursday at Fort Irwin, an Army training base in California's Mojave Desert where he was performing.

His mother, 61-year-old Janice Turner, was arrested the same day, when a SWAT team raided Kingston's rented mansion in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Kingston and Turner have been charged with conducting an organized scheme to defraud, grand theft, identity theft and related crimes, according to arrest warrants released by the Broward County Sheriff's Office. The warrants allege they stole money, jewelry, a Cadillac Escalade and furniture.

The Jamaican American performer had a No. 1 hit with "Beautiful Girls" in 2007 and collaborated with Justin Bieber on the song "Eenie Meenie."

Robert Rosenblatt, an attorney for Kingston and his mother, had said Friday that they planned to waive extradition, saying they looked forward to addressing the charges in a Florida court and "are confident of a successful resolution."

Emails sent to Rosenblatt for further comment Tuesday were not immediately answered.

The warrants in the case say that from October to March they stole almost $500,000 in jewelry, more than $200,000 from Bank of America, $160,000 from the Escalade dealer, more than $100,000 from First Republic Bank, $86,000 from the maker of customized beds. Specifics were not given.

Kingston, whose legal name is Kisean Anderson, was already on two years' probation for trafficking stolen property.

His mother pleaded guilty in 2006 to bank fraud for stealing over $160,000 and served nearly 1.5 years in prison, according to federal court records.

Siblings fail to support one of their own after loss

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away from COVID in 2021. A year later, after it was safe to socialize, I had a memorial dinner to commemorate him. Not one of my seven local siblings attended. They said, "That was for HIS family." I didn't argue or try to convince them that I needed them. It was terribly embarrassing when my friends and my husband's friends kept asking to meet my siblings.

It's been two years since the service and three years since his death, and I can't get over feeling abandoned. Although I am cordial, I don't rely on any of them. No one seems to notice my withdrawal -- at least they don't discuss the change in my behavior with me. I suppose I need to "get over it," but I can't.

SO DISAPPOINTED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SO DISAPPOINTED: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. It must have been a terrible shock. Your siblings were either grossly insensitive or they may have disliked your husband. That they would avoid his memorial rather than attend and be supportive has to have been painful, and your reaction is understandable.

Healthy people don't "get over" being abandoned in their time of need. I'm not suggesting that it's OK to carry a grudge that would further isolate you, but stepping back seems to have been a wise and self-protective decision.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Gary" for six years, but he has never proposed. I'm very independent. My husband died when my kids were small, and I had to raise them and keep a roof over our heads, which made me even more independent. In fact, there are times I don't think I even want to remarry.

Gary and I love each other. We get along well and do a lot of things together. I know we are lucky to have each other in our lives, but there are times I want to break off our relationship because he hasn't asked me for a commitment, and I still want to find somebody who wants to commit himself to me. Although Gary says he is committed, I know being engaged isn't a magical solution either. I have been engaged before.

I have tried breaking it off with Gary, but he never takes me seriously. I have felt this way for most of our relationship. I am a counselor, so I know about typical recommendations such as attending therapy. Should I stay, or should I go? Trying to go has not worked out in the past. I need some advice.

TO MARRY OR NOT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TO MARRY OR NOT: It's time for a candid discussion with Gary about your feelings. Tell him that after six years, you need a commitment from him, and WHAT EXACTLY THAT ENTAILS. If you do, it may help you to clarify in your own mind what you need and what you think is missing. I don't think you need therapy to figure this out—you simply need to be honest with yourself.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

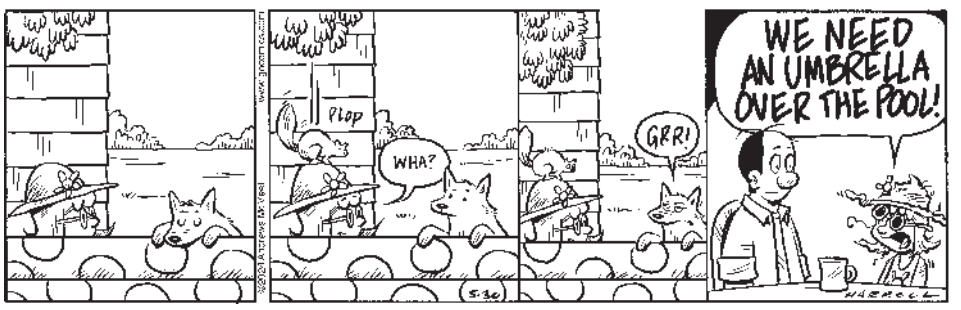
HI, CALVIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAKING PAPER HATS? CAN I MAKE ONE, TOO?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CHAPEAU OF OUR TOP-SECRET CLUB, G.R.O.S.S. - GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS!
"SLIMY GIRLS"?!
I KNOW THAT'S REDUNDANT, BUT OTHERWISE IT DOESN'T SPELL ANYTHING. NOW GO AWAY.
GIRLS AREN'T SLIMY!
DON'T GET GUNK ON ME. I TOOK A BATH LAST SATURDAY AND I'M ALL CLEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'VE GOT A FEELING CICADAS ARE ACTUALLY EMERGING TO PLOT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. THOSE RED EYES ARE A DEAD GIVEAWAY OF THEIR EVIL WAYS.
STOP WORRYING. THEY'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE NOISE FOR A WHILE, AND THEN THEY'LL BE GONE.
OH, YOU MEAN LIKE PUNK-POP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

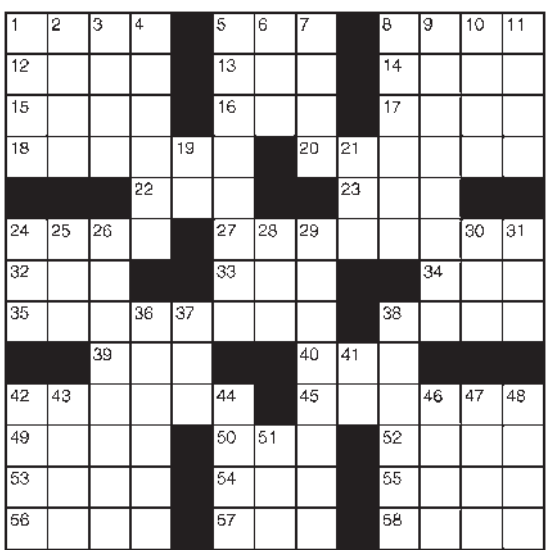
ACROSS
1 Prepare taters
5 Apply cream
8 Elitist
12 Wine region
13 Eggs
14 Yarn
15 Ancient portico
16 Victory
17 Helps
18 Reviewer's annual list
20 Vodka cocktail
22 Last (Abbr.)
23 Massachusetts cape
24 June honorees
27 Deceptive
32 Comic Philips
33 "Homeland" org.
34 Zee preceder
35 Every 14 days
38 Tech news website
39 Scot's denial
40 Tofu source
42 After-dinner drink
45 Energetic person
49 Latin 101 word
50 Acapulco gold
52 "Young Frankenstein" role
53 "Gee whiz!"
54 Part of DJIA
55 Grouch
56 Hammett pooch
57 Raggedy doll
58 Without

DOWN
1 Sail support
2 Regarding
3 Halt
4 Gap
5 Slight drop
6 Bird (Pref.)
7 Backfire sound
8 John of "Full House"
9 Finalize
10 Shoppe description
11 Optimum
19 — Dorado
21 Post-op area
24 Society newbie
25 "— dreaming?"
26 Magazine with a "Best of Maine" list
28 Dogpatch adjective
29 Installs, as floor tiles
30 Bagel variety
31 Even so
36 Singer Kitt
37 Always, in verse
38 Doubters
41 Cry of dismay
42 Long story
43 Med. plan options
44 Luke's teacher
46 Taj Mahal city
47 Complain
48 Spheres
51 Director Howard

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	P	A	S	■	T	A	N	■	A	F	E	W
A	R	L	O	■	O	V	O	■	T	I	M	E
N	E	A	R	B	E	E	R	■	O	N	J	T
S	P	I	K	E	■	■	I	D	L	E	R	S
■	■	■	I	N	T	O	■	E	L	L	■	■
C	O	R	N	■	C	P	A	L	■	I	D	S
A	B	E	■	U	T	I	C	A	■	N	J	A
T	I	A	■	S	C	U	R	■	H	E	M	P
■	■	L	P	S	■	M	E	N	U	■	■	■
C	I	D	E	R	S	■	■	A	M	P	L	E
H	O	E	R	■	C	A	R	E	B	E	A	R
E	T	A	S	■	A	B	A	■	U	R	S	A
I	A	L	E	■	B	U	Y	■	G	U	I	S

Yesterday's answer 5-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Winget, 39; Rory Bushfield, 41; Idina Menzel, 53; Wynonna Judd, 60.

Happy Birthday: Preparation will be your saving grace. Research, test your ideas thoroughly and proceed when you are satisfied that you can follow through with your plans. Refuse to let the little things get to you or someone you work alongside test your patience. A positive attitude will help you maintain your status quo and come out on top whenever someone challenges you. Don't let anyone alter your confidence. Your numbers are 4, 9, 18, 22, 29, 33, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think before sharing your thoughts. Focus on completing things on time and moving on to more enjoyable pastimes. Take time to do something that builds confidence and a healthy, positive attitude that attracts upbeat encounters with interesting people. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Call out to people who will pitch in and help implement changes that make a difference to your community. Be careful not to upset someone you love. A kind gesture will help reverse a misunderstanding. An innovative idea will encourage you to make an unexpected choice. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Watch, observe and change only what's necessary. Aim for stability and security, and stop worrying about impressing others. Be true to yourself and stay fixed on what's important to you. Listen to your inner voice and initiate the changes that offer you the freedom to follow your heart. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Embrace change. Implement new pastimes, friendships and fresh starts into your life, and learn from the experience. The people you meet and the conversations you have will set you free and encourage you to express yourself more and interact with people who make you feel alive. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put the wheels in motion. Take advantage of any chance you get to explore new possibilities. Attend functions that look promising, and don't be shy. Introduce yourself to people you feel drawn to; something interesting will transpire. Protect against scams and avoid overspending. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Evaluate whatever situation you find yourself in and do whatever is necessary to sidestep situations that can make you look bad or put you in jeopardy. By being a good listener, you'll avoid being misinterpreted or put in an awkward position. Learn from experience.✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Travel, entertainment and hobbies are favored. Get involved in networking functions or conferences that can open your eyes to a host of options to fill your free time or enhance something you want to pursue. You'll encounter someone who intrigues you if you socialize. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll see things differently regarding your connections with others. Gravitate toward like-minded people who can offer mental stimulation and help point you in the right direction. Someone you haven't seen in a while will do something that unexpectedly surprises you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be honest regarding your feelings. Distance yourself from anyone or anything that can jeopardize your reputation. Don't believe gossip; go directly to the source and make decisions that align with your morals and ethics. Don't neglect domestic issues or living conditions that need attention. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Tidy up your surroundings, set a budget and consider the changes that offer comfort and convenience. Don't let anger set in when your energy is better spent on home improvements and taking better care of what and who are important to you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be open about how you feel and what you intend to do next. Don't give in to emotional manipulation or feel you must put up with demands that go against your beliefs to please someone. Choose friends you are in sync with. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Embrace what brings you joy. Take responsibility for your happiness, and follow through with a pursuit that boosts your morale and enthusiasm. Live life your way and follow through with your plans, and you will discover the road to victory. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, disciplined and intuitive. You are friendly and reactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8					7	9	
1				8		2		
5			7	6				
	9		1	2	7		8	3
2		7	8	5				
				9	3			7
	1			7		9		
			5		6			
				3	2	8	5	

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	2	3	6	1	7	4	9	8
7	8	1	4	9	2	3	5	6
9	6	4	3	8	5	2	7	1
3	4	9	5	7	1	6	8	2
1	7	2	8	6	9	5	3	4
6	5	8	2	3	4	7	1	9
4	3	6	1	5	8	9	2	7
8	9	5	7	2	6	1	4	3
2	1	7	9	4	3	8	6	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S AN EXTRAVAGANZA! **Solution: 9 letters**

G	N	I	T	H	G	I	L	A	I	C	E	P	S	T
A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	U	A	E	L	B	A	T	N
Y	P	A	R	O	D	Y	C	N	A	F	P	T	A	E
R	R	F	G	L	A	M	O	U	R	R	N	R	R	L
A	E	L	E	N	E	R	G	Y	O	E	T	O	S	L
N	S	A	D	Ⓦ	I	H	R	D	M	T	C	D	T	E
I	E	M	A	Ⓞ	I	F	U	N	H	H	I	N	U	C
D	N	B	R	Ⓗ	L	C	I	E	L	G	S	E	D	X
R	T	O	A	Ⓢ	T	A	A	C	I	I	U	L	D	E
O	A	Y	P	I	T	T	O	N	E	S	M	P	E	X
A	T	A	O	R	R	M	E	V	E	N	T	S	D	P
R	I	N	E	I	E	D	R	A	M	A	T	I	C	O
T	O	T	C	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	V	E	G
X	N	A	Y	Y	R	O	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	F	Y	I	N	G	A	S	P

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Amazing, Celebratory, Comedy, Decorative, Dramatic, Electrifying, Energy, Entertainment, Event, Excellent, Expo, Extraordinary, Fancy, Flamboyant, Gasp, Glamour, Lighting, Magnificent, Music, Parade, Parody, Presentation, Production, Show, Sight, Special, Splendor, Star-studded, Tableau, Theatrical

Yesterday's Answer: Refill

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Towns, Edwards lift Wolves over Mavs to avoid sweep in West finals

DALLAS (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns finally found his rhythm, and the Timberwolves finally closed a game in the Western Conference finals.

Now they head back to Minnesota to see if they can make things even more interesting against Dallas.

Towns scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half and the Wolves held off the Mavericks 105-100 on Tuesday night to avoid a sweep.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Wolves stayed alive in their first trip to the conference finals in 20 years, and just the second in the franchise's 35 seasons. Game 5 is Thursday night.

Towns, who was shooting 28% from the field in the series coming in, was 9 of 13 from the field, including four of five from 3-point range. And that was after picking up fifth foul midway through the third quarter.

"Being aggressive," Towns said. "Ain't no time to have any doubts in your mind, especially at this time, it's Game 4, down 3-0. Ain't no time to have any doubts."

AP

Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) reacts to a play during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals against the Dallas Mavericks, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Dallas.

Luka Doncic had 28 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his sixth triple-double of these playoffs, but he and co-star Kyrie Irving were just 13 of 39 from the field. Irving, who was 14-0 in his career in closeout games coming in, made just one of six from long range and finished with 16 points.

"That game's on me. Just didn't give enough energy," said Doncic, who was 7 of 21 from the field, including 1 of 5 in the fourth when he and Irving had combined as closers to build the big series lead. "They won one game. We've just got to focus on the next one."

The Wolves have led in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter of every game in the series, and this time they finished.

Towns put the Wolves ahead for good on a 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining, then hit another from deep the next time down. His third 3 of the final quarter put Minnesota up six with three minutes to go.

"He was super confident," Edwards said. "He wasn't worried about any shots previous to the shots that he hit tonight. He played exceptionally well."

Edwards put the Wolves up five with a jumper just inside the arc with 39 seconds left, and Minnesota hung on despite Edwards fouling Doncic on a made 3-pointer for a three-point Dallas deficit with 12 seconds to go.

Doncic missed the free throw, and Naz Reid hit a bucket to push the margin back to five with 11 seconds remaining.

"It's hard to close in this league," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said after his team shot 29% from 3 in the second half. "Understanding we didn't play our best. Give Minnesota credit. They did."

The biggest sign of Towns' rhythm came in the third, when he scored 10 points in the first seven minutes before picking up his fifth foul for elbowing P.J. Washington Jr. in the face as Towns went up for a shot.

The call against Towns prompted a technical foul against Minnesota coach Chris Finch from the second row, where he's been confined since the start of the second round of the playoffs because of a knee injury that required surgery. Assistant Micah Nori has been roaming the sidelines.

Finch flirted with a second technical, which would have meant an ejection, a few minutes later when Edwards was called for his fourth foul going for a steal against Daniel Gafford.

"To have him be on the sideline but behind the bench for the majority of these playoffs, you forget the impact he can have," said Mike Conley, who scored 14 points. "When your coach is up getting technicals and yelling and when you see him hobbling around to do it, it's impressive. It lit a fire on all of us."

Towns fouled out in the final two minutes, while Edwards and Rudy Gobert, who had 13 points and 10 rebounds, finished with five apiece.

"We weathered a lot of foul trouble out there, which was frustrating to say the least," Finch said. "Credit to our guys. They found a way to win the game. It was a lot like Games 1 and 2, and we were able to get it done tonight."

The Wolves avoided being the 16th team out of 21 to get swept after losing the first three games of a series that started at home. Now they'll try to be just the fourth to force at least six games.

Jaden Hardy scored 10 of his 13 points in a 3:38 stretch that spilled into the first bucket of the fourth quarter, a corner 3 that pulled Dallas within two. Four of the game's 11 lead changes came in the fourth.

The Mavs were without rookie center Dereck Lively II, who injured his neck when Towns accidentally kneed him in back of the head in Game 3.

Maxi Kleber, who has been out since May 3 with a separated shoulder, returned to give Dallas another option inside. But Daniel Gafford didn't have his regular tag team partner as a rim protector at center, and the Wolves shot a series-best 53% from the field.

After completing first quest by reaching NBA Finals, Celtics can begin thinking about championship

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Boston Celtics completed one quest Monday night by returning to the NBA Finals.

Now, they'll chase an even bigger goal, the one that's eluded this team for more than a decade—capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

Yes, despite playing for six conference titles in eight seasons, this marks only the second time Boston has advanced to The Finals during that span. And since winning their first NBA title in 1957, the Celtics' current 16-year drought is the second-longest in franchise history.

It would be the crowning achievement to what has already been a remarkable season.

"Boston has a great team. They led the league from wire to wire," Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said after his team was swept 4-0 in its first conference finals appearance since 2014. "They didn't want this thing to go on any longer. They blocked shots, they got offensive rebounds, they made key shots."

Boston has excelled in seemingly every possible way in this year's playoffs.

The Celtics have won seven straight games overall, they improved to 6-0 on the road with yet another comeback victory, 105-102 in Game 4 against Indiana, and they are 3-0 in elimination games. They beat Indiana three times down the stretch, rallying in the last two games with decisive 13-2 and 7-0 closing spurts to end the Pacers' perfect 2024 playoff run at home—and their season.

Next up will be the Dallas Mavericks or Minnesota Timberwolves. Dallas leads the Western Conference finals 3-0 and can clinch the series on its home court Tuesday night.

And Boston has been finding help in all corners.

While Jayson Tatum garnered the usual headlines for two 36-point outings and a near triple-double in Game 4, 37-year-old Al Horford defied the odds by making seven 3-pointers in Game 3, Jrue Holiday overcame an illness to deftly pick Andrew Nembhard's pocket, and Derrick White delivered the go-ahead 3-pointer in Game 4, everyone seemed genuinely happy it was Jaylen Brown who was chosen series MVP.

"I didn't expect that at all," Brown said before explaining the emotions of being left off the all-NBA teams. "But as time has gone by and I got to this point, I just stopped caring and I don't care who sees what as long as my team knows my value, my city knows my value, my family knows my value. That's all I really care about."

There's little doubt the Celtics understand where they would be—and where they wouldn't be—without Brown.

He scored 29 points and grabbed six rebounds to help Boston erase an eight-point deficit in the final six minutes Monday night. And after the defense forced two late turnovers, Brown helped close it out with a brilliant block of Nembhard just before White's big shot.

The reaction was telling for Holiday, who won an NBA title with the 2020-21 Milwaukee Bucks.

"I think it's even better that he didn't expect it. That really means that didn't matter to him," Holiday said. "It was about winning and whatever it took, however long it took. That's what was important to him and I think when you have that mentality and that mindset, you see great people rewarded for the things they do."

Holiday understands.

When the Bucks traded him to Portland in September to acquire Damian Lillard, he wasn't sure what would happen next. Four days later, the Celtics made another deal with the Trail Blazers to get the two-time All-Star and defensive whiz, hoping he could help them complete their championship quest.

So far, the Celtics' investment in Holiday has delivered big dividends. And now everyone's about to find out if the addition of Holiday and the possible return of starting center Kristaps Porzingis from a strained right calf that has kept him out since April 29 just might help Boston earn another crowning achievement.

"Obviously, we fell short of our ultimate goal last year, lost in the conference finals," Tatum said. "So I think we've just applied everything we learned to this season and this postseason and it's been working really well."

Abreu, Refsnyder hit HRs as Red Sox halt Orioles' 5-game win streak

BALTIMORE (AP)—Brennan Bernardino worked out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the sixth inning, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-3 Tuesday night.

Wilyer Abreu and Rob Refsnyder homered and Brayan Bello won for the fifth time in six starts for Boston, which beat the Orioles for the first time in five meetings this season.

Grayson Rodriguez struck out a career-high 10 for Baltimore, which had a season-best five-game winning streak halted.

Bernardino entered with a 4-3 lead and two on in relief of Bello (6-2) and promptly walked pinch hitter Ryan Mountcastle, loading the bases. But he struck out pinch-hitter Austin Hayes, induced a weak grounder from Jorge Mateo back to the mound for a force out and then struck out Gunnar Henderson on three pitches to end the threat.

Bernardino struck out two more in a 1-2-3 seventh.

Boston added three runs in the eighth on pinch-hitter Romy Gonzalez's sacrifice fly and Refsnyder's two-run homer.

AP

Boston Red Sox' s Rob Refsnyder, second from left, celebrates his two-run home run with Ceddanne Rafaela (43) during the ninth inning of a baseball game as Baltimore Orioles catcher Adley Rutschman looks on at back right, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Baltimore.

BRAVES 2, NATIONALS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Marcell Ozuna broke a scoreless tie with his 16th homer in the seventh, Max Fried threw eight strong innings and Atlanta beat Washington.

Fried (5-2) allowed seven hits with one walk and six strikeouts while finishing three outs shy of his second consecutive complete game and third of the season.

Fried outlasted Washington right-hander Jake Irvin, who set a career high with his 10th strikeout when Austin Riley ended the sixth inning by fanning for the third time. Irvin allowed only two hits with two walks and no runs in six innings.

ATHLETICS 3, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Rookie Mitch Spence took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, Miguel Andújar hit a three-run homer, and Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Spence (4-2) had allowed just one base runner—a second-inning leadoff walk to Isaac Paredes—until José Caballero flared a single to center with one out in the sixth.

T.J. McFarland, Michael Kelly and Mason Miller, who worked the ninth to get his 11th save in as many chances, completed a three-hitter.

Miller allowed a two-out single to Yandy Díaz and walked Brandon Lowe before striking out Paredes to end it.

CARDINALS 7, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Nolan Arenado and Nolan Gorman each hit a two-run homer, helping Kyle Gibson and St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

Iván Herrera had three hits for St. Louis, which improved to 11-3 in its last 14 games.

Gibson was charged with one run and two hits in six innings. The right-hander struck out six and walked two.

Cincinnati had won a season-high four consecutive games. Will Benson led off the sixth with his eighth homer for the Reds' first hit of the night.

DODGERS 3, METS 0, 10 INNINGS, 1ST GAME
DODGERS 5, METS 2, 2ND GAME

NEW YORK (AP)—Gavin Stone struck out seven in seven innings, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the reeling New York Mets for a doubleheader sweep.

Stone (5-2) allowed three hits and walked none. Alex Vesia got six outs for his second save, finishing a three-hitter.

The NL West-leading Dodgers snapped a five-game losing streak with a 5-2 win in the opener. Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, and Teoscar Hernández had three hits.

Los Angeles trailed 2-0 before Freeman hit an RBI single in the eighth, and Chris Taylor—mired in a 7-for-72 slump—drove in Hernández with a well-placed bunt in the ninth against Adam Ottavino.

The Dodgers then got off to a fast start in the second game. Will Smith homered in the first against Jose Quintana, and Miguel Rojas hit an RBI double in the second. Miguel Vargas went deep in the sixth.

Stone threw 87 pitches, 63 for strikes.

RANGERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager homered for the seventh time in as many games, putting the Texas ahead with his three-run shot in their victory over Arizona in a rematch of last year's World Series.

Seager pulled a pitch by Brandon Pfaadt (2-4) into the seats in right field with one out in the fifth for what proved to be the final score. It was the 12th homer overall for the World Series MVP, who went deep twice Sunday at Minnesota in the Rangers' last game, extending his hitting streak to a season-best 11 games and his on-base streak to 21 games.

That decisive inning started with consecutive singles by Jonah Heim, who snapped an 0-for-17 slide, and No. 9 batter Travis Jankowski before Marcus Semien reached on a fielder's choice.

TWINS 4, ROYALS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Simeon Woods Richardson earned his first win in eight starts, Jose Miranda drove in two runs and Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Minnesota, winners of six of their last seven games, got two hits apiece from Manuel Margot, Byron Buxton and Carlos Santana.

Jhoan Duran allowed the first two hitters he faced in the ninth to reach base, but helped by Christian Vazquez throwing out a runner trying to steal second, he didn't allow a run and earned his ninth save.

CUBS 6, BREWERS 3, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mike Tauchman hit a go-ahead single in Chicago's five-run 10th inning that appeared to bounce off Trevor Megill's throwing elbow, and the Cubs stopped a five-game skid by beating Milwaukee.

Ben Brown struck out a career-high 10 in seven hitless innings, continuing the Brewers' season-long futility against Cubs starting pitchers. The Brewers got their first hit on Sal Frelick's one-out single off Hayden Wesneski in the eighth.

Brown threw 93 pitches, 64 for strikes, in the rookie right-hander's sixth start and 13th appearance. Cubs starters have combined to throw 32 1/3 shutout innings against the Brewers so far this season.

After Willy Adames' two-out RBI single in the ninth forced extra innings, Tauchman opened the 10th by delivering a 99.4-mph shot that hit Megill, who reacted in obvious pain and headed straight toward the dugout.

As Megill left the field, the ball remained right in front of the pitcher's mound for several seconds before first baseman Owen Miller raced toward it. But automatic runner Luis Vázquez slid home safely with the go-ahead run.

PADRES 4, MARLINS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jurickson Profar homered and reliever Jeremiah Estrada extended his club-record strikeout streak to 13 straight batters, the most in the expansion era, for San Diego, who beat Miami for their third straight win.

Estrada achieved his milestone by striking out the side in the ninth. He celebrated by pounding his chest and glove and blowing a kiss to the sky. A few minutes later, he got a Gatorade shower from his teammates.

Knuckleballer Matt Waldron pitched seven impressive innings—his longest stint in the majors—for the win.

GUARDIANS 13, ROCKIES 7

DENVER (AP)—Josh Naylor hit two homers and drove in five runs, David Fry hit a tie-breaking three-run home run in the seventh inning, and Cleveland beat Colorado Rockies.

José Ramírez homered and scored four runs for Cleveland. He has career-high seven-game RBI streak and leads the majors with 56 RBIs, 32 in May. The Guardians lead the American League and are second in the major leagues with 282 runs.

Fry's homer broke a 7-7 tie and Naylor's second homer, measured at 438 feet, put the game away with two outs in the eighth. Naylor broke an 0-for-17 slump with his first homer, a two-run shot in the fourth.

Ramírez, who was 2 for 3 with a double and two walks, is 13 for 29 with two homers, six doubles, and eight RBIs in seven games at Coors Field. He hit his 16th homer in the first.

Rookie Kyle Manzardo had three hits and two doubles in his first career multi-hit game.

Kris Bryant and Elehuris Montero hit two-run homers for Colorado. The Rockies tied it at 7-7 on Ryan McMahon's RBI single to cap three-run sixth inning.

ANGELS 4, YANKEES 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Taylor Ward's two-run double into the left-center gap scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Kevin Pillar had a two-run homer among his three hits and the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a victory over the New York Yankees to snap a four-game losing streak.

Pinch-hitter Willie Calhoun led off the Angels' eighth with a base hit before being lifted for pinch-runner Mickey Moniak with two outs. Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo kept the inning alive when he mishandled Luis Rengifo's ground ball, setting the stage for Ward.

After Clay Holmes replaced Luke Weaver (3-1), Ward's double, which rolled to the left-field wall brought in Moniak and Rengifo. It also marked just the second time in 29 games the Angels have won when trailing after seven innings.

Matt Moore (1-1) got the win and Carlos Estévez retired the side in the ninth for his eighth save.

MARINERS 4, ASTROS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Julio Rodríguez drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the eighth inning after Josh Rojas tied the game with an RBI double and Seattle beat Houston.

A second run also scored on Rodríguez's single, as Alex Bregman's throwing error allowed Rojas to score and Rodríguez to take second base.

Mitch Haniger led off the inning with a double and Jonatan Clase came in to pinch run. Clase reached third on a wild pitch and scored on Rojas's double down the first-base line.

Rodríguez hit an infield dribbler to Bregman, who looked home before throwing the ball past first baseman José Abreu to allow Rojas to score.

The winning rally came off reliever Ryan Pressly (0-2).

The Astros had retired 15 straight Mariners hitters before Haniger's double, as Astros starter Hunter Brown allowed just one run and four hits over six innings with nine strikeouts. Brown retired the final 12 batters he faced.

BLUE JAYS 7, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Davis Schneider had three hits and three RBIs, and Toronto beat the sliding Chicago White Sox.

Justin Turner drove in two runs for Toronto, which finished with 13 hits. George Springer had two hits, walked three times and scored two runs.

Blue Jays right-hander Kevin Gausman (4-3) pitched six innings of one-run ball. The 33-year-old Gausman has won his last four decisions.

Chicago dropped its seventh straight game. At 15-41, the White Sox are off to the worst 56-game start in franchise history.

Nicky Lopez tripled and doubled for Chicago. Andrew Vaughn singled home Zach Remillard in the eighth.

GIANTS 1, PHILLIES 0, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Luis Matos hit a walk-off sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, Spencer Howard pitched four scoreless innings and San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

After the Phillies failed to score in the top of the 10th off Sean Hjelle (2-1), automatic runner Tyler Fitzgerald advanced to third on a fly ball by Wilmer Flores before Matos knocked him in with a fly ball to left off Matt Strahm (3-1).

Five San Francisco pitchers combined to shut down the Phillies for 10 innings. The Giants used an opener followed by Howard as the primary pitcher.

The Giants have won 10 of their last 12 games, taking the first two games of the three-game series against the Phillies after being swept in a four-game set in Philadelphia earlier this month.

Djokovic begins bid for 25th Grand Slam title with first-round win

PARIS (AP)—Ignore the straight-set score: Novak Djokovic was not quite at his impervious best in the first round of the French Open on Tuesday night, and his 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4 win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert was not enough to alter the defending champion's "low expectations" at this tournament.

"I don't want to get too excited," Djokovic said. "I thought it was a good performance for me. Solid. Of course, I could have done better, I think, on return games, but also credit to him for serving very well, for changing things up."

It's been a rougher-than-usual season so far for Djokovic, and while there were some signs of breaking out of his 2024 funk during the course of the contest at Court Philippe Chatrier, he still has room for improvement as he attempts to become the first player in tennis history to claim 25 Grand Slam singles trophies. There's no doubt he cares about such things.

"Grand Slams are the ones that are basically getting me up from the bed every day. Knowing that I have to hit the practice courts, I always think about what I can do in Grand Slams," he said. "So here I am. Hopefully I can have another deep run."

That's what Herbert expected to see.

"I knew, from the beginning," Herbert said, "that I'm going to have in front of me the 'Novak of the Grand Slams.' ... It's just the intensity of concentration."

Djokovic is a three-time title winner at Roland Garros who needs to return to the final to retain his No. 1 ranking. But he arrived in Paris without having done that at any tournament this year. He is 0-3 in semifinals—including a loss last week at the lower-tier Geneva Open on red clay—and this victory across 2 1/2 hours only served to make his overall record 15-6.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic slips when playing a shot close to the net during his first round match of the French Open tennis tournament against France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

So when he spoke at a news conference on Sunday, Djokovic described his mindset heading into the French Open this way: "Low expectations and high hopes." Then he pointed out, "Anything but a title, for me, is not satisfactory," which is understandable given his remarkable resume.

"In the moments when it mattered, I think I delivered. Played a great tiebreak. Stayed focused," Djokovic said about Tuesday's performance. "I'm glad that I started the way I started, the way I felt on the court. Comparing to the previous weeks of tournaments I played, I felt good. Better. So I'm moving in a positive direction. Yeah, it's just the beginning."

He seemed a bit edgy at moments against Herbert, a 33-year-old Frenchman who owns a career Grand Slam in doubles but never has been past the third round at any major in singles and is currently ranked 142nd.

The home crowd tried to push Herbert, repeatedly calling out his name, even imploring him in English at one point by chanting, "Let's go, Pierre-Hugues! Let's go!" They jeered Djokovic late in the third set when he went to the sideline to towel off after he slipped, stumbled and tumbled onto the clay chasing a ball.

A day after sitting in the Chatrier stands to watch rival Rafael Nadal's first-round loss against Alexander Zverev, Djokovic was competing in the chill of a 60-degree evening (15 Celsius), and he did not always look happy. He rolled his head back after one miss while making four groundstroke mistakes to get broken early in the second set. He repeatedly gestured to ballkids to give him tennis balls so he could prepare to serve.

Although Herbert's game did not demand a maximum expenditure of energy from Djokovic, there certainly was enough to keep things interesting. And by the end, the winner totals were 37 for Herbert, 29 for Djokovic.

There were some strokes of brilliance from Djokovic, to be sure, and he covered the court well when sprinting after the drop shots Herbert kept trying. The highlight for Djokovic was probably the closed-stance sliding backhand winner that earned him a match point—which was converted when Herbert double-faulted to end it.

Still, the statistic that truly mattered was the one that shows Djokovic is now 69-0 in opening matches at Slam events since starting his career with a 3-2 mark in first-rounders.

Djokovic's second-round opponent will be 63rd-ranked Roberto Carballés Baena of Spain.

The first round closed on a day during which rain delayed play for several hours early in the day on all but the two principal courts, which are outfitted with retractable roofs.

Other winners Tuesday included the man Djokovic beat in last year's French Open final, Casper Ruud, and past major champions Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina.

Ruud, who also was the runner-up to Nadal in Paris in 2022 and leads the ATP with 36 wins in 2024, beat Felipe Meligeni Alves 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Two-time Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka overpowered Erika Andreeva 6-1, 6-2, and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina beat Greet Minnen 6-2, 6-3.

Sabalenka is trying to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win the Australian Open and Roland Garros in the same season and get halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam.

"I'm just trying to separate myself from all those facts," said Sabalenka, who is No. 2 in the rankings behind Iga Swiatek. "I mean, I know that if I'll be able to focus on myself and I'll be able to fight for every point and try to find a solution in each game, I will be able to win these big tournaments. But I just try to take it step-by-step."

PADRES

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third batter in the order, Tony Salas, was also perfect in the batter's box and scored two runs and two RBIs. Second in the lineup, J.R. Suel was also perfect in two at-bats with three runs.

On the bump, the Padres' pitching staff combined for six strikeouts and just seven hits.

Last Tuesday, the Bandits stole the show against Blue Shark, 16-6.

Only two runs came in for Blue Shark by the third inning, with four runs scored in the last. At that point however, it was too late as the Bandits had already scored their 16 runs.

Majority of the Bandits' runs were made from free passes to the bases as Blue Shark's pitcher could not properly locate his pitches. The Bandits took advantage and cleared the bases from RBI base hits that left Blue Shark's pitcher reeling.

In the standings behind the Padres and Bandits are the Falcons at three wins and no losses. The Cardinals have four wins and one loss; the Royals are at 3-2; the Braves and Blue Jays have an even 2-2 record; Sandlot are at 2-1; the D-9er's are 1-2; and the Bears have a 1-3 record.

SOFTBALL

From page 16

than them," team manager Manny Sablan said.

Sablan also said that while they are definitely going all out to win a medal in the Micro Games, the team's participation in next month's competition means more than the hardware.

"We're hoping that with us having a women's fastpitch softball team in the Micro Games, this would revive the sport in the NMI and encourage more women to play fastpitch. We have many talents out there, especially the youth, just waiting to be tapped and looking for venues to showcase their talents. We need to get these women/girls out to compete in local leagues and interscholastic level," the team manager said.

In this year's Micronesian Games that will run from June 15 to 24, the NMI Women's National Fastpitch Softball Team will be battling Palau, Pohnpei, and host Marshall Islands. The team is made up of Ashlie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Jaylina Borja, Kiara Borja, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Jenisha Dubrall, Mayiah Duenas, Britney Gopez, Destiny Pangelinan, Alannah Sablan, Rosie Saralu, Kiana Aldan, Jhaneeka Atalig, Kiana Camacho, and Keolani Rios. Also on the team are coaches Derron Flores, Mariano Aguon, and Mark Flores.

"We have seen significant improvements from the girls since we started training in February. Their hitting and field have improved a lot. The most challenging part would be the pitching and we are working hard almost every day to address that area. Most of our pitchers are used to slow-pitch so the coaches are doing their best to help them make the big adjustment," Sablan said.

When asked which team will be their toughest opponent, the manager named all three, saying that Pohnpei, Marshalls Islands, and Palau are expected to bring in veteran players, while he called the NMI players rookies. Sablan, however, said that what they are lacking in experience, they will make up for it with a big heart and persistence both on offense and defense.

"It's hustle day in and day out, sticking to the basics of the game, which is fielding and hitting, and working on our team defense," the NMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

The NMI Women's Fastpitch Softball Team is part of the 114-member delegation of Team Marianas, which is supported by the following sponsors: Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Skechers, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J Motors, E-Land Group, D&Q, Take-Care Insurance, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corp., Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Construction, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corp., LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, P&A Corp., Jose & Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, and Zoom Café. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	37	19	.661	–
Baltimore	34	19	.642	1½
Boston	28	27	.509	8½
Tampa Bay	26	29	.473	10½
Toronto	25	29	.463	11
Central Division				
Cleveland	37	18	.673	–
Kansas City	34	22	.607	3½
Minnesota	30	24	.556	6½
Detroit	26	27	.491	10
Chicago	15	41	.268	22½
West Division				
Seattle	30	26	.536	–
Texas	26	29	.473	3½
Houston	24	31	.436	5½
Oakland	23	33	.411	7
Los Angeles	21	33	.389	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	38	18	.679	–
Atlanta	31	21	.596	5
Washington	24	29	.453	12½
New York	22	32	.407	15
Miami	19	37	.339	19
Central Division				
Milwaukee	31	23	.574	–
Chicago	28	27	.509	3½
St. Louis	26	27	.491	4½
Pittsburgh	25	29	.463	6
Cincinnati	24	31	.436	7½
West Division				
Los Angeles	35	22	.614	–
San Francisco	29	27	.518	5½
San Diego	30	28	.517	5½
Arizona	25	29	.463	8½
Colorado	19	35	.352	14½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NSA STANDINGS

Majors				
Braves	6	0		
Ol'Aces	4	2		
Lil' Cubs	3	3		
Marlins	3	3		
Comets	4	3		
Lil' Blue Jays	3	2		
Cobras	1	5		
Pirates	0	5		
Juniors				
Phillies	4	0		
Braves Jr.	3	1		
Blue Jays Jr.	2	3		
Comets Jr.	0	5		

SBL STANDINGS

Bandits	4	0		
Padres	4	0		
Falcons	3	0		
Cardinals	4	1		
Royals	3	2		
Sandlot	2	1		
Braves	2	2		
Blue Jays	2	2		
D-9er's	1	2		
Bears	1	3		
White Sox	0	3		
Natives	0	5		
Blue Shark	0	5		

Towns, Edwards lift Wolves over Mavs to avoid sweep in West finals

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Sports

Djokovic begins bid for 25th Grand Slam title with first-round win

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Unbeatable Braves snake past Cobras, 17-4

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
File photo shows Braves' Damian Sablan swinging at a pitch during one of their games in the Major League of the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

The unbeaten Braves continue their domination of the diamond after they snaked past the Cobras, 17-4, last Monday in the Major League of the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

They have won six in a row for the only undefeated record in the Major League.

The Braves swung their bats early and scored eight in the first inning. Only two batters in their lineup didn't get on base that inning. After their hot start, it was the Cobras' turn to strike.

They scored three in the first from the first to the third of their lineup—Chad Reyes, Landon Lieto, and Denzel Kaipat, but the Braves' Sky Lizama quickly put a stop to their offense.

The Braves then recorded six in the second for a 14-3 lead as the Cobras' pitching staff just could not find the strike zone. On the other hand, the Braves pitchers registered six Ks and didn't allow runs in the second and third inning.

The only other blemish came in the last inning when the Cobras showed some signs of life when Lieto scored. However, Braves closer Kaipat quickly got out of the jam and preserved their win by a margin of 13 runs.

The Braves' Kaleb Reyes got on base all three at-bats and scored three runs, while Dayton Marchadesch, Elijah Babauta, and Aiden Lizama rounded the bases two times each.

In the other game that day, the Comets streaked past the Cubs, 10-8.

The Cubs led, 8-7, in the fifth inning until the Comets scored three runs to steal the lead and eventually win as the Cubs failed to score in the last inning.

Last Sunday, the Lil' Blue Jays defeated the Marlins, 21-11; in the Junior League, the Blue Jays Jr. pummeled the Comets Jr., 27-13; and the last game between the Phillies and Braves Jr. was suspended.

Padres, Bandits immaculate in SBL

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI
File photo shows Padres' Austin Benavente hustling to first base during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Padres and Bandits are immaculate in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL after they each nabbed their fourth straight win at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Padres first beat the Natives, 16-4, last Monday.

The Padres summoned an otherworldly power in the middle of the game as they scored 10 runs in the third inning. Their lead ballooned from 6-3, to 16-4.

The only sign of life the Natives showed was in the first inning from three runs by Cam Towai, Ben Leon Guerrero, and Keoni Lizama. Their fourth and final run came in the second scored by Towai.

The Padres' designated hitter did his job and went perfect 3-for-3 at the plate and brought in three RBIs, and scored two runs. The

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Fastpitch Softball: Looking beyond Micro Games

The NMI Women's National Fastpitch Softball Team is looking forward to seeing action in the 2024 Micronesian Games as well as what's after following the completion of the competition in the Marshall Islands.

The excitement buildup for next month's Micro Games is evident, as it will be the NMI's first to field a women's fastpitch softball team in the regional event since 2006 when Saipan hosted the meet.

"Since this is our first since 2006, the girls are both excited and nervous. Excited because last year, they had no idea they will go to Marshalls and represent the NMI. Nervous and pressured because it will be their first time to compete outside our local leagues and they will go up against players that are way more experienced

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